

CURT FLOOD ACT OF 1998

• Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, late last night, the Senate passed by unanimous consent S. 53. I have been contacted by the Attorney General of my State, Hubert H. Humphrey III, and asked to try to clarify a technical legal point about the effect of this legislation. The State of Minnesota, through the office of Attorney General, and the Minnesota Twins are currently involved in an antitrust-related investigation. It is my understanding that S. 53 will have no impact on this investigation or any litigation arising out of the investigation.

Mr. HATCH. That is correct. The bill simply makes it clear that major league baseball players have the same rights under the antitrust laws as do other professional athletes. The bill does not change current law in any other context or with respect to any other person or entity.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Thank you for that clarification. I also note that several lower courts have recently found that baseball currently enjoys only a narrow exemption from antitrust laws and that this exemption applies only to the reserve system. For example, the Florida Supreme Court in *Butterworth v. National League*, 644 So.2d 1021 (Fla. 1994), the U.S. District Court in *Pennsylvania v. Piazza v. Major League Baseball*, 831 F. Supp. 420 (E.D. Pa. 1993) and a Minnesota State court in a case involving the Twins have all held the baseball exemption from antitrust laws is now limited only to the reserve system. It is my understanding that S. 53 will have no effect on the courts' ultimate resolution of the scope of the antitrust exemption on matters beyond those related to owner-player relations at the major league level.

Mr. HATCH. That is correct. S. 53 is intended to have no effect other than to clarify the status of major league players under the antitrust laws. With regard to all other context or other persons or entities, the law will be the same after passage of the Act as it is today.

Mr. LEAHY. I concur with the statement of the Chairman of the Committee. The bill affects no pending or decided cases except to the extent that courts have exempted major league baseball clubs from the antitrust laws in their dealings with major league players. In fact, Section 3 of the legislation makes clear that the law is unchanged with regard to issues such as relocation. The bill has no impact on the recent decisions in federal and state courts in Florida, Pennsylvania and Minnesota concerning baseball's status under the antitrust laws.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I thank the Senator. I call to my colleagues attention the decision in *Minnesota Twins v. State by Humphrey*, No. 62-CX-98-568 (Minn. dist. Court, 2d Judicial dist., Ramsey County April 20, 1998) reprinted in 1998-1 Trade Cases (CCH) ¶72,136.●

BLONDIE LABOUISSIE, 1915-1998

• Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I note with sadness the passing of a leading citizen of my hometown, New Orleans, Louisiana. Carolyn Gay Labouisse, a community leader and civic activist for many decades, died this past weekend at the age of 83. She was the daughter of Edward James Gay, a Senator from Louisiana from 1918 until 1921.

Known to everyone as "Blondie," she was the classic Southern woman who, when she saw something lacking in the community, would immediately step forward, roll up her sleeves, and set about making things right. For example, when she saw that New Orleans had an inadequate, out-of-date library facility, she immediately began to spearhead efforts to build a new, modern Main Library. She also worked to develop and expand public affairs programming at our local public television station (WYES). She was an active participant in several task force committees dealing with education in New Orleans.

Blondie was dedicated to progressive politics. In the 1940's and 1950's, she was part of a circle of young people in New Orleans who fought hard to eliminate corruption from politics and to make state and local government more responsive to the needs of its citizens. She campaigned to elect reform candidates as governor of Louisiana and mayor of New Orleans. She was one of the founding members of the Independent Women's Organization, which is a leading reform organization in New Orleans.

She received the 1991 Times-Picayune Loving Cup, the single most prestigious award given annually in New Orleans for community service. The selection committee, in recommending her, noted that "few show more care and compassion for community and fellow man."

I extend my sympathies to her family. Blondie Labouisse meant a great deal to the people of New Orleans. She will be missed.●

RETIREMENT OF GENERAL
RICHARD I. NEAL

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a fine Marine Officer, General Butch Neal, the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, who will soon retire from active duty.

General Neal's long and distinguished career began more than thirty years ago following his graduation from Northeastern University when he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. Following the completion of The Basic School at Quantico, Butch was trained as an artillery officer and was assigned to duty in the Republic of Vietnam where he served tours as a Forward Observer and as an Advisor to the Vietnamese Marine Corps.

While serving in Vietnam, he was wounded and received the Purple

Heart. He was also awarded the Silver Star Medal on two occasions for his heroism as well as the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" device.

General Neal distinguished himself over the years as one of the Marine Corps' finest commanding officers. Whether as a battery commander, artillery battalion commander, Deputy Marine Expeditionary Force Commander or Commanding General of the 2nd Marine Division, his reputation as an uncommonly gifted leader of Marines has grown with each billet he held. In the joint arena, he served with distinction as the Commanding General, Joint Task Force for Operation GITMO, the humanitarian relief effort for Haitian immigrants in Cuba and as the Deputy Commander in Chief/Chief of Staff for U.S. Central Command.

Day after day, year after year he demonstrated the rare quality of balancing difficult and often dangerous responsibilities with a keen concern for the welfare of his Marines. Butch has been a superb staff officer. Most Americans remember him from his no-nonsense daily briefings during the Persian Gulf War, but he also distinguished himself in personnel management as well as in operational planning.

This unique combination of leadership and administrative skills carried him to the very highest levels of the Marine Corps. His impeccable character and strong moral fiber make him a leader among the very best of our nation's military commanders. Yet what stands out most to me when I think of this fine officer is his simplicity and unassuming nature.

Despite all the accolades and all the honors, he remains a simple man from Massachusetts. I got to know him and his wife Kathy because they attend the same church as my wife Marcelle and I. He is a hard working New Englander who with love of God, country and Corps dedicated a lifetime in service to our nation. Too often we do not thank the Butch Neals of the world, those who choose a lifetime of service and sacrifice so that the rest of us can live safe and free.

Butch, we are grateful for the service you have rendered as a Marine, as well as the sacrifices made by both you and your family. I wish Butch, his wife Kathy and their children Andrew, Amy and Erin much health and happiness in the years ahead. Our country is better for the many contributions he has given us.●

PAUL O'DWYER

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the most passionate and committed political leaders that this country has ever known: Paul O'Dwyer of New York City. Sadly, Mr. O'Dwyer recently died, one day before his 91st birthday.

A former New York City Council President, Paul O'Dwyer was the soul of political activism in New York for a half-century.